



CHILDREN RIDING ON A TAME BEAR AT BERNE, SWITZERLAND.—SEE PAGE 63.

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BERNE, in Switzerland, is pre-eminently the city of bears. Its cantonal arms are studded with bears, and tame bears are always maintained in the city limits as a kind of tutelar deity of the place; or, if this expression seems too strong, we will say keeps bears as Rome did geese, with a deep sense of obligation. At all events, the bear appears everywhere in stone, in wood, and in the flesh. Some of these last are quite tame, and children are seen playing with them, riding on them as on great good-natured Newfoundland dogs. But the bears kept in the pit in the city—three or four mangy brutes—are not so approachable, for, though constantly fed with buns and nuts by visitors, these animals are so fierce that they actually killed, some few years since, a man who incautiously fell into the pit.